

goat." I very soon saw my error, but not liking to risk a snap shot, tried to head the animal off, but without success. The tracks are enormous for the size of the animal. I found many of their dusting places. The earth is pawed up until quite a depression is formed, in which they roll and lie by the hour. They are somewhat like those of the bighorn, but the numerous very long white hairs left in the dust show the presence of the goat. I spoke to my guide (Charles McWhirk, Corvallis, near Missoula, Montana,) about getting some skins and skeletons this winter, and he said he would do so if any one "made it worth his while." If you desire them I think you had better write to him personally about it. I tried to explain to him how the skins should be prepared. According to the recent order of the War Department he can turn them over to the quartermaster at Fort Missoula, forty-five miles distant, for shipment to the National Museum.

This account is not so complete as I could wish, but I send it as better than none, as the goat is so little known. What I have written applies to their habits in the Bitter-Root Range. They are also found rather plentifully in the main range of the Rockies near Flathead Lake. Several have been caught alive, and the Indians sometimes bring in the kids, but the latter soon die.

Nothing of special ornithological interest here now, but the winter fauna in this latitude will be worthy of study.

Very truly, yours,

JAMES C. MERRILL.

NOTES ON A COLLECTION OF FISHES FROM EASTERN GEORGIA.

By TARLETON H. BEAN.

The United States National Museum received, December 15, 1879, from Mr. A. Graves, postmaster at McBean, Ga., five species of fresh-water fishes, one of which is here described as new to science. Mr. Graves writes that the fishes were collected in McBean Creek, which "is the dividing line between Burke and Richmond Counties, and is within two hundred yards of McBean Station, on Augusta and Savannah Railroad. It empties into the Savannah River, about seven miles from this station." The local names are those transmitted by Mr. Graves. The species of *Centrarchidae* have all been previously recorded by Prof. D. S. Jordan, from Georgia.

1. *Chænobryttus gulosus* (C. & V.) Gill.—"Warm Mouth Perch"; "Yaw Mouth Perch".

23509 *a.* D. IX, 11; A. III, 9.

23509 *b.* D. X, 10; A. III, 9.

The first ventral ray, the tips of the anal, caudal, and dorsal rays, and of the membranes between the dorsal spines are crimson. Speci-

men 23509 *a* has a crimson spot half as long as the eye on the sheath under the last four dorsal rays. The pectorals of both examples are yellow.

2. *Xystroplites heros* (B. & G.) Jor.—“Bream”.

23510 *a*. D. X, 10; A. III, 10. (Soft dorsal injured.)

23510 *b*. D. X, 12; A. III, 11.

23510 *c*. D. X, 12; A. III, 12.

23510 *d*. D. X, 12; A. III, 12.

These agree with the types of *Pomotis heros* B. & G.

3. *Xenotis sanguinolentus* (Ag.) Jor.—“Red-belly Perch”.

23511 *a*. D. X, 11; A. III, 10.

23511 *b*. D. X, 11; A. III, 10.

23511 *c*. D. X, 12; A. III, 11.

23511 *d*. D. X, 11; A. III, 10.

The throat, the breast, and the belly are orange red; the soft dorsal and the anal have a narrow margin of the same color; the external caudal rays are tipped with the same. The pectorals are yellow. The sides are indistinctly banded with black.

4. *Esox americanus* Gmel.—“Pike”.

23512. B. XII; D. III, 12; A. IV, 10.

Length, $7\frac{3}{10}$ inches (186 millimeters).

All the fins are yellow. The skin covering the dorsal and caudal rays, however, is blackish.

5. *Hudsonius euryopa* sp. nov.

Teeth 1, 4-4, 1, with a narrow grinding surface on the first two of the long series.

23513 *a*. D. III, 7; A. II, 7; V. I, 7; P. I, 13; C. +, 19, +; L. lat. 38; L. trans. 6 + 5.

23513 *b*. D. III, 7; A. II, 6; V. I, 7; P. I, 13; C. +, 19, +; L. lat. 38; L. trans. 6 + 5.

The greatest height of the body equals the length of the longest dorsal ray; it is slightly less than the length of the head, and is contained in the length of body, without caudal, 5 times. The length of the head is contained 4 to $4\frac{1}{2}$ times in the same. In specimen 23513 *a* the length of the pectoral equals the greatest height of the body; in specimen 23513 *b* it equals the length of the head without the snout. The long diameter of the eye equals $\frac{1}{3}$ of the length of the head. The length of the ventral is contained 6 to $6\frac{1}{2}$ times in length of body without caudal. The distance of the origin of the dorsal from the snout equals twice the length of the head, and equals the distance of the ventral from the snout. The longest anal ray equals in length the longest ventral ray. The length of the anal basis equals $\frac{1}{2}$ the greatest height of the body. The length of the upper jaw equals the short

diameter of the eye. The length of the lower jaw and that of the post-orbital portion of the head are equal. There is a black lateral band following the course of the lateral line and continued around the nose, most distinct in the young specimen.

UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM,
Washington, December 18, 1879.

**DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF AMIURUS (A. PONDEROSUS)
FROM THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER.**

By **TARLETON H. BEAN.**

The United States National Museum received from Dr. J. G. W. Steedman, of Saint Louis, Mo., chairman of the Missouri Fish Commission, on the 8th of November, 1879, a Catfish which weighed 150 pounds at the time of shipment. After comparing this with the other described species of *Amiurus* I am unable to identify it with any of them. The most distinguishing character of the species is its many-rayed anal, in which it resembles *Ichthaelurus* rather than *Amiurus*, though it has the skull-structure of the latter.

The specimen which forms the type of the present description was sent at the request of Prof. Spencer F. Baird, United States Commissioner of Fish and Fisheries, to whom Dr. Steedman wrote the following information: "Your letter requesting the shipment to you of a large Mississippi Catfish was received this morning. Upon visiting our market this P. M. I luckily found two—one of 144 lbs., the other 150 lbs. The latter I ship to you to-night by express. . . . I purchased it from an old fish-dealer of 30 years' experience in our market; and he assures me that the largest Mississippi Catfish he has met in that time weighed 198 pounds. (He says he has *heard* of Catfish weighing 250 and 300 pounds, but he does not believe the stories.) This is the only variety, he says, which reaches 100 lbs. There is another species which sometimes attains 65 lbs. in weight. My informant (and he is *practical* authority among us) enumerates six well-marked varieties of Catfish in the Mississippi waters. . . ."

The admission of this species into the genus *Amiurus* will necessitate a modification of the definition of the genus so far as the limits of variation in the anal rays are concerned; and will leave only the lack of contiguity between the supra-occipital and the second interspinal to distinguish *Amiurus* from *Ichthaelurus*. A plaster cast and the skeleton of the type are preserved.

DESCRIPTION.—The catalogue number of the type is 23388; its length, to the origin of the middle caudal rays, is 57.2 inches, to the end of the same rays, 61 inches. The distance from the middle of the base of the caudal to the end of the upper caudal lobe is 8 inches.